**Cases accepted by Government pleaders against Government**

601. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Senior Central Government Counsels/Central Government Counsels/Central Government pleaders can accept any case against the Central Government for the court for whom they are Central Government counsel/pleader;

(b) whether the Government is aware that Senior Central Government Counsel/Central Government Counsel/Central Government pleaders are accepting cases against Central Government; and

(c) if so, whether any action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) In so far as the Central Government Counsel who are borne on the various Panels maintained by the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice, are concerned, there is a restriction to the effect that a Counsel shall not advise any party in or accept any case against the Government of India in which he has appeared or is likely to be called upon to appear for or advise or which is likely to affect or lead to litigation against the Government of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Formation of all India Judicial Service**

602. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of judges in different High Courts and the Supreme Court lying vacant;

(b) actions taken to fill these posts;

(c) whether any progress has been made in the formation of All India Judicial Service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) As on 1-11-1987 there were 50 vacancies of Judges in the High Courts and 10 vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court. Filling up of these vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts is being done by the Government in consultation with concerned constitutional authorities. A statement giving the High Court wise break-up of vacancies is enclosed. (*See* Appendix CXLIV, Annexure No. 9).

(c) and (d) The matter regarding formation of All India Judicial Service is engaging the attention of the Government.

**Shillong bench of Guwahati High Court**

603. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days of sitting of Shillong Bench of Guwahati High Court, and the number of judges of the said bench;

(b) the number of cases pending before the Shillong Bench of Guwahati High Court, for the last three years; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the number of days of sitting and the number of judges of the Shillong Bench of Guwahati High Court and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (c) At present, a circuit bench of the Guwahati High Court visits Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya, at the discretion of the Chief Justice.

The Government have decided to set up a permanent Bench of the Guwahati High Court at Shillong, consisting of 2 Judges.

(b) As per information available, the number of main cases pending in the Guwahati High Court pertaining to Meghalay ais given below:

| Pendency at the end of | Number of main cases |
|---|---|
| 1983 . . . . . | 294 |
| 1984 . . . . . | 297 |
| 1985 . . . . . | Not available |
| 1986 . . . . . | 283 |

604. [*Transferred to the 20th November, 1987*]

605. [*Transferred to the 20th November,* 1987]

**Abolition of Freight Equalisation Scheme**

606. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made for abolition of freight equalisation scheme on coal etc. for which the Government is committed; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay in abolition of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) There is no freight equalisation scheme operating in respect of coal. The Government has decided in principle to phase out gradually the existing freight equalisation in respect of cement & steel, subject to subsidisation of transport for remote, inaccessible and isolated areas. In the case of cement, phasing out of freight equalisation has already commenced with the introduction of partial decontrol with effect from 28-2-1982 Freight equalisation operates only in respect of the levy portion of the sale of cement which is progressively being reduced. As regards steel, in view of the representations received from various quarters it has been decided to refer the matter to the National Development Council.

**Freight Equalisation Scheme**

607. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a whether it is a fact that the Government is reluctant to phase out freight equalisation scheme in respect of iron and steel in view of vast price differential to save States like Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, which do not have steel Plants; and

(b) if so, whether on the same reasons the scheme for cotton, groundnut oils, industrial alcohol, mustard oil, wheat, textiles will be introduced to save the interests of States like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) It is incorrect to say that Government is reluctant to phase out freight equalisation scheme. The matter has been referred to National Development Council.

(b) No, Sir. As recommended by the National Transport Policy Committee it has been decided that no new scheme of freight equalisation for industrial commodities or for essential items of mass consumption